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Fourteen variants of concern identified in region

SUE TIFFIN

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Fourteen additional variants of concern have been identified in COVID-19 cases in the region, that number more than doubling last week from five last Monday to 12 on Friday, and 14 by Monday. The cases are located in Northumberland County and City of Kawartha Lakes, identified as the N501Y variant, and were acquired outside the region, according to the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit.

Dr. Ian Gemmill, acting medical officer of health, spoke to the topic and provided the most updated numbers at that point on Feb. 24 at his regularly-scheduled weekly press conference. At that time, he mentioned five new variants of concern to the three prior cases, but later in the afternoon an additional case had been added. Three more were identified in the health unit's Friday epidemiological report, an additional two in the March 1 report.

"The situation with VOCs can change
see 'WE NEED' page 9



Stand up to bullying

Pink Shirt Day had supporters with Mr. Stamp's grade 4/5 class of students Quinn Hamilton, left, Elaina Boermans, Katelyn Dovell, Ainsley Fowler, Ava Scheffee and Madilyn Sprague, who attempt to sign "I love you" on Wednesday, Feb. 24 in Haliburton. The origins of Pink Shirt Day is linked to two Grade 12 students David Shephard and Travis Price of Nova Scotia, who created a swell of support for a bullied Grade 9 student wearing a pink T-shirt by going out and buying pink shirts for them and friends to wear as an act of solidarity. Students across the country now participate to raise awareness and show support against bullying. / Submitted by principal David Waito

HCDC provides millions in loans during pandemic

CHAD INGRAM

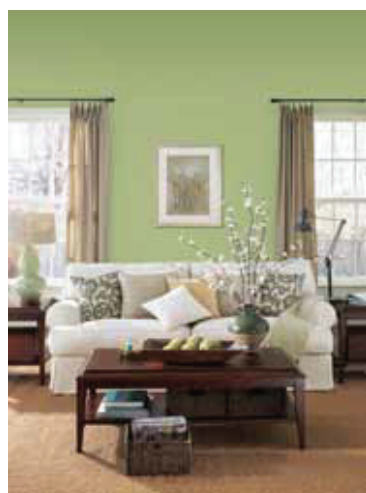
Staff Reporter

The Haliburton County Development Corporation has provided millions of dollars in loans to local businesses since the COVID-19 pandemic began nearly a year ago.

"Basically as soon as the pandemic hit, I got the board of directors together, and we created a COVID loans program that was similar to the flood relief program," HCDC executive director Patti Tallman told members of Haliburton County council during a presentation at a March 24 online meeting. "Loans were provided to businesses that applied at zero per cent, and it was a fast-track moving program that we implemented quite quickly and it was quite successful." A total of \$1.4 million in funding was requested through the COVID loans program, with more than \$900,000 approved in 23 separate loans, \$776,000 of which has been dispersed. HCDC also offered payment deferrals for existing clients for three months amid the pandemic, although Tallman said the majority of clients chose not to take that option, and that after the three-month period, 95 per cent of the business owners who received money were able to resume loan payments.

"So it was quite a great process to see the strength of the businesses that we had

see HCDC page 9



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Starlink brings the world to rural Highlanders

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

High speed internet is here for rural residents through Starlink, an effort being led by the private spaceflight company owned by Elon Musk, SpaceX.

SpaceX is constructing a satellite internet constellation to provide high-speed service access via a connection with ground receivers in low to medium population density communities around the world.

The product development for Starlink first started in 2015 and launched its 60 first low-Earth orbit, or LEOs, part way through 2019. More and more satellites are being launched, as part of a plan to form a megaconstellation, comprising of thousands of mass-produced small satellites that will orbit 550 kilometres from earth.

Currently, Starlink is in its beta stage and is offering the public an opportunity to connect through invites after they have submitted an online application.

It's unknown how many beta users are in the Highlands, but for the few who are involved it has been largely positive results after spending close to \$800 for the hardware (receiver, router, cable and hardware for installation) with tax and shipping, and the \$129 monthly connection fee.

Bill Donnery, a retired resident who lives on Ritchie Falls Road with his wife, has been using Starlink for the past three weeks.

"I was just fortunate enough to get in on it so I jumped at the chance. I'm very happy with it," he said.

Donnery, who said his internet use is mostly for entertainment – made up mostly of streaming services such as Netflix, and video chatting with loved ones, mounted his Starlink dish on his roof in place of where his satellite dish for television was. He's among the select few not just in Haliburton County, but the country selected as beta users, who will provide information for Starlink.

When he first received it after a four-day journey from California he put it out on his driveway to test it and had internet connection within 10 minutes.

"It's pretty simple. You plug it in and it finds its own satellite itself and rotates and tilts and within five or ten minutes you're online," he said.

He adds his highest speed recorded through an app on his phone has been 175 mbps and the low has been 35 mbps, while the latency is between 20 and 40.

Donnery said he's only experienced the internet connection being down for up to three minutes in a day.

"The biggest thing is no cap. You don't have to worry about going over your limit. High speed unlimited internet," he said.

Donnery's been living there in the home he built since 1984 and his internet connection started with dial-up with Bell to Xplornet satellite in the early-2000s to now



Moore Falls resident Richard Bradley is happy with Starlink's high speed internet connectivity since he received his hardware, which includes a receiver he has temporarily placed on his picnic table outside his home Minden Hills Township home. Submitted by Richard Bradley

using a wireless network. The speed of his connectivity has ranged from two or three mbps with satellite to 20 to 25 mbps with wireless.

"This seems too good to be true," he said, referring to seeing the 150 mbps speed.

Using cellular connection is expensive with five gigabytes costing \$60 and could go up from there. Recently, a new rate during the pandemic was offered, which saw him pay \$120 for 50 gigabytes. However, sometimes speed with Rogers was halved during the summer when there were more users.

He appreciates the dishes' heating feature that melts the snow so he doesn't have to go up to his roof to clear it after a snow event.

Across Haliburton County, Moore Falls resident Richard Bradley was amazed by the connection he had within a few minutes after he placed the Starlink dish, which is similar to a size of a pizza, on his picnic table.

He loves how much clearer everything is when he watches the Toronto Maple Leafs play after he received it close to a month ago now.

"To watch a Leaf game and not have to set my TV to 240p so everything looks like sort of an interesting colouration of checkboards ... Now when I put it on auto when I connect to Sportsnet or TSN or whatever, for a hockey game ... more often than not, it selects 720p high definition. Obviously it does a speed test to decide," he said.

Bradley, with two other users in the house, said there has been some down times of connection during virtual meetings that need a live feed without buffering, but he's "willing to look past" it. Part of this will be resolved with higher placement of the dish to avoid obstruction of sight to the sky by the trees in his yard, he adds. Bradley said he'll wait for the spring to install the dish higher on his house. He wishes he could have had an option for a different length cable between the dish and

the router and you didn't need to dismantle the dish to remove the cable.

He said the monthly cost for Starlink is comparable to what he pays now.

"If I cancel my landline and I cancel my internet with Bell, it's almost the same price. It's within, I dunno, \$10, a month," he said. "It's an upgrade. I guess the real thing about the internet is we've already decided it's not a fad. It's not going away. So all we want is better, faster and more, right?"

Starlink uses beta users to evaluate connections.

As far as any concerns about being monitored, Bradley said he's not concerned.

"I don't distrust them any more than I distrust Bell Canada. You know what? Whoever your service provider is ... they can monitor whatever traffic [you have]. It's all going through their system and they all have access," he said.

Recently, Musk posted to social media that speeds will double later this year to 300 mbps and said latency – the amount of delay for an internet network, defining how much time it takes a signal to travel back and forth from a destination – will drop to 20ms later in the year. He's also said Starlink will reach customers around most of the earth by the end of this year and have complete global coverage by next year.

Musk added "Important to note that cellular will always have the advantage in dense urban areas. Satellites are best for low to medium population density area."

Amanda Conn, executive director with the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce, acknowledges Musk can come off as boastful, but doesn't discount his abilities and track record success.

"Even when he makes these claims that sound a little like crazy and outlandish at the time, he has been able to make a lot of them come true to some extent," she said.

Conn, who lives in a wood area west of Carnarvon, is expecting to have her hardware soon after placing an order on Tuesday, Feb. 23.

The issue for her isn't access so much as gaining a stable connection.

"When it comes to connectivity it's not just getting access to that connectivity, but it's also getting access to stable connectivity, which I don't know if in the beta Starlink they will have," she said.

Her challenge with her connectivity is having video conferences where she can see herself moving.

"Seeing other people isn't the ... problem, but it's more so you're always frozen," she said.

She is currently connected using satellite and LTE through her phone, as her location precludes her using Bell or North Frontenac Telephone Company [NFTC].

There's been great anticipation for Starlink.

"I've heard great things, which is why I'm so excited, but as more and more people join I think we need to see how it actu-

ally works. I'm afraid of putting all my eggs in one basket without actually seeing the evidence," she said.

The past few years, her dependency on connectivity has increased and, although it's effectiveness fluctuated, it has improved with what she currently relies on for internet.

"I've seen an increase in their service in the last couple of years so there has been increases there, but this seems to be a big jump forward. It make all those things that are really difficult right now a lot easier," she said.

She adds while video conferencing for work all day included acceptable audio, it also included frozen video images of her.

Internet access at her house of five users goes beyond work applications she said.

"It's not just for work right now. Everyone is so far away and unable to be with their family so I think that is a huge part of it too. That social connection, especially over the last year," she said.

Despite all the benefits and positive aspects that come with Starlink, there is a caveat.

"As more and more people are accessing the network and how it's scaled up to millions of users they ultimately want to have, I think that is going to be important to keep an eye on," she said.

She adds at some point there will be a limit to how many satellites will be allowed to meet the demands.

There's an obvious high cost for this service that not everyone in the county can afford, she adds. It would be ideal if a solution that was accessible to everyone was available.

Also, Conn wishes there could be a local option.

"While we would love it to be a Canadian company that is offering that technology, you know, anything that we can do to help connect more people up here the better," she said. "That's going to help the businesses."

She hopes her experience will not just benefit her, but will provide a perspective she could share with chamber members.

"If I have a great experience, probably, other businesses are asking for suggestions and solutions I would be more than happy to share that information with them and share my own personal experience. I don't think it's something the chamber needs right now because we are located downtown Haliburton so we do have access to infrastructure," she said.

She believes this connectivity isn't just good for businesses when it can enable more opportunities to new and more business, but also benefit their employees.

"If we have a period of time where people need to work from home or want to work from home and have better connectivity to do so I think that helps a business as a whole be more productive," she said.

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Council concerned with costs involved with affordable housing project

MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Dysart et al council has some concerns with a proposal that would see the Lakeview Motel, located along County Road 21, converted into a 15-unit affordable housing complex.

This particular project has been in the works for several months, as a collection of municipalities and community groups work together in an attempt to increase the supply of affordable housing across the region. Back in 2019, a ten-year housing and homelessness plan was adopted by both Haliburton County and the City of Kawartha Lakes, with an aim to create 750 new units by 2029.

In a delegation to council last Tuesday [Feb. 23], Michelle Corley, affordable housing target program supervisor with the City of Kawartha Lakes, indicated the proposal for Lakeview Motel, brought forth by Places for People, was a vital part of the early stages of the plan.

Corley's report notes that, this year, there is the potential for 47 new affordable housing units to be created in Haliburton County. Roughly a third of those, 15 units in total, will be situated at the site that currently houses the Lakeview Motel.

As is the case with almost every affordable housing development, Corley explains, there needs to be some level of investment from the municipality that stands to benefit from their creation. Often, developers are offered various incentives to ensure projects such as these are financially feasible.

With that in mind, Corley asked Dysart council to consider waiving approximately \$45,000 in permit and application fees to help push through the project. That was a tough pill for some of the community's elected officials to swallow.

Mayor Andrea Roberts was concerned about the \$32,900 exemption requested to cover ERU – or equivalent residential unit – fees.

"I really struggle with that. ERU is a user-pay system. We can't actually waive that. We would have to actually put money into our own capital contribution for the year. It's a hard dollar figure," Roberts said.

While Dysart set aside \$10,000 to set up an economic development reserve fund in 2021, that wouldn't be enough to completely cover the requested ERU exemption.

Ward 2 Coun. Larry Clarke was concerned that Dysart

could potentially be investing thousands of dollars into a project that would likely benefit residents from outside the community. Corley previously informed council that the units would be filled by individuals who are currently on a waiting list for community housing, and may not be from Haliburton.

"Around 80 per cent of the applicants [on our waiting list] are local. When I say local, I'm talking about folks from across our service region, so the City of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton County," Corley said.

That wasn't the only issue brought up. Ward 4 Coun. John Smith worried about the impact essentially removing a motel from the community could have on local tourism.

"Nobody can argue against the need for more affordable housing... The concern I have with this proposal is all it's doing is taking one type of housing, called a hotel, and converting it into more permanent accommodation," Smith said. "Our community suffers from a shortage of housing and accommodations of any type, especially during the summer season. If we were to take taxpayers money and help fund this conversion, we would be creating housing, but that may not even be addressing the real need in our community."

Smith pointed towards students who participate in the Haliburton School of Art and Design's popular summer programming as one group that would suffer through the closure of Lakeview Motel.

"These people are often scrambling for all types of accommodation, and stay anywhere in our community... To take this place that, today, is home for many of those people who come to our community for a week or two, or three in the summer and take it off the market... We'll be scrambling to find a place for tourists to stay."

With council leaning towards delaying making a decision, Corley said a prolonged wait would be detrimental to the long-term intermunicipal plan.

"We really are working towards this program having a quarterly intake. We want to be able to bring recommendations [regularly] if there are potential projects landing in Dysart. We're working hard towards meeting and achieving these targets," Corley said. "We know the need for affordable housing is great, and we're hoping to be able to attract a lot of interested parties to build this much-needed housing. A lot of times, these types of housing can't be made affordable unless there are incentives applied to it to make all the budgets work."

She added, "I'm hoping this will become a regular program, and I'm hoping to seek regular approval for these incentives in the future."

Wanting further clarification on some points from staff, council elected to push this decision until March 9, when they gather for a committee of the whole meeting. It is expected a final decision over whether or not to support this proposal will be made then.



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High demand for holiday homes driven by pandemic

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

Finding that perfect spot on a lakefront in cottage country will be even more elusive than ever before thanks to unprecedented demand this year spurred by a desire to get away following loss of summer vacations last year.

Short-term accommodations are a hot commodity because of the pandemic and how more and more people are looking to get away from the city, but still stay in the province.

Cheryl McCombe, owner with Don Critchley of Cottage Care Rentals and Property Management, which represents 65 cottages primarily in the Haliburton Highlands, said she's never seen this kind of demand before after close to eight years of operation.

Before the March lockdown, the company could have taken bookings for the summer, but decided to wait. It was shutdown and did not take bookings from March until June 4 when the "flood gates opened." It's four staff continued to get paid at this time.

"I was literally on the phone from 6:30 in the morning until 11 at night every single day from June 4 all the way until the end of June and solidly booked every single opening we had at a cottage," she said.

There were lots of people left without a summer vacation last year because of how fast the bookings were made, she adds. This led to people, who missed out last year, to carry their deposits over to bookings for this year.

"It's crazy. We have very limited space available at any of our cottages right now," she said.

She said a lot of the people booking are frontline service workers, seeking stress relief with a summer vacation, but are facing challenges due to scheduling.

"We have a lot of them sitting on hold somewhere where at least when their schedule opens up they can get away," she said.

Many of her clients, she said, are older couples and families.

The arrangement for accommodations, she said, is safe for everyone.

When the family comes from their home they come directly to the accommodation.

"They get food delivery. They're bringing their food with them. Their kids are going to be able to jump in a lake, hug a tree and make s'mores around a camp fire," she said.

The feeling of relief is palpable when a booking is finalized, she said.

"As soon as we say, 'Yep, OK, great, let's book you into this cottage. It's a good match.' And they fill out all the forms, you can just hear the exhale from them," she said.

Although many are return clients, she said, there are new renters, who would otherwise travel out of the country to warmer climes.

Typically the busy time is the end of June to September, but the added demand has expanded the time period for bookings before and after. Bookings aren't usually made for May because of the bugs, but there has been requests for that month now.

Particularly with families, she said, the hope is to just get away and a continue with things like it was in the city or suburbs.

"They think, 'Geez, my kids have been in online learning for so long, if the place has WiFi we can just continue that and have a nice quiet vacation,'" she said. "There's not the need to go back and return to school."

McCombe wasn't sure about the exact figures, but said there is a high percentage of return customers and this year is part of an ongoing trend for the Highlands. Cottage Care Rentals and Property Management is part of the Ontario's Cottage Rental Managers Association, which includes 10 vacation rental companies based in Ontario. It was reported all the OCRMA members have reported close-to-full capacity a January meeting.

She acknowledges the pandemic is not a good situation, but looking at the positives of there are many new visitors to the area who are discovering "those hidden gems that exist here."

Muskoka used to be the main cottage-drawing for people in Ontario, but in the last four years, she said, there has been a growing demand to come to the Highlands.

The people come here "because they have been hooked on our community. They have been hooked on our nature. They have felt the energy in the Highlands and they feel like they've been welcomed so they're coming back," she said.

This greater demand could provide an opportunity for growth for the area related to services and amenities.

"There are places in Muskoka you can get everything and anything over there and there is no reason why we can't do that here," she said. "All you need is starting a business to do it."

McCombe said the recent lockdown forced them to turn away winter vacationers for February.

"We had to say, no. So we had to cancel. That is important to know that any agency here is working within the rules," she said.

She adds this is important for the health of everyone.

As far as licensed rental agencies go, she said, they didn't rent out accommodations when there was a lockdown the first time last spring despite what people think.

"We are responsible business owners and we will not break the rules. The rules are in place to keep everybody safe," she said.

Bill Dewey, owner of WRD Cottage Rental Agency since 1995, said there has been lots of inquiries for bookings through his agency, but everything has been put on hold for the summer.

"There's no lack of people wanting to rent cottages and we're taking them and putting them on hold until we have some clear guidelines from the government," he said.

WRD represents more than 180 private rental cottages in Central Ontario, including the Haliburton Highlands.

Dewey said he was surprised there has been so many bookings during

see PLANNING page 5

Head Lake Ice Out contest

It's that time of the year again!

While it may not feel like it now, spring, and the warmer weather it brings, is right around the corner. To go along with that, the *Haliburton Echo* is once again excited to offer its Head Lake Ice Out contest.

We're asking anyone and everyone to send in their best guess of when, precisely, the final lump of ice will dissolve into Haliburton's Head Lake.

Send the date and time you think it will happen, along with your name and con-

tact number by 5 p.m. on Monday, March 15 in order to qualify. You can send in your guess via email to mike@haliburtonpress.com, by phone at 705-457-1037, or by dropping a note through our door at 146 Highland Street.

The person whose guess is closest to the time of the ice melt will win a one-year subscription to the *Haliburton Echo*, and a free lunch of up to \$50 on us from any local restaurant.

Good luck, and happy guessing!

Planning for summer

from page 4

the pandemic.

It's important to remember, he said, he's not just looking out for the interests of renters.

"I've got two customers. I've got the renter that rents the cottage, but another important aspect is the owners. The owners come to us. Without them I don't have anything to sell so they're all just sitting back and waiting now as to what the government's going to do. I don't know whether we'll ever get a definitive answer the way the government's been operating lately," he said.

He adds the cottage owners are hesitant to proceed with bookings this summer for health concerns.

Dewey tries to listen for updates, but finds it challenging with changing messages.

"Everyday I get up and listen [for] the new protocols ... It's difficult for a com-

pany like ours or anybody in the hospitality industry right now. It's crazy," he said.

He welcomes the inquiries despite the issues with what is and what isn't permitted.

"I encourage them to come to us and if they find a cottage on our website that they like we put their name on it and we wait for the government to make their decisions," he said.

If a provincial decision leads to a ban on short-term summer accommodations, McCombe said deposits will be returned to people.

However McCombe is optimistic the summer will play out like last year because of the vaccine.

"If we didn't go through [with bookings] when do you wait until? That's the question," she said.

She adds, "We have to have hope that it's going to be okay for the summer time or else you go crazy."

CMHA continues to support transgender and gender-diverse people

MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Canadian Mental Health Association of Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge has launched a new program to provide additional community supports for transgender and gender-diverse individuals.

Unveiled on Monday [March 1], the Trans Peer Outreach program will assist transgender and gender-diverse people in improving their quality of life through the provision of "community-based, client-centred care that supports positive interdependence." Services will be delivered exclusively by individuals who have lived experience as a transgender or gender-diverse person.

The new initiative replaces the local CMHA branch's Gender Journeys program, which ended on Feb. 26 following a three-year run.

"We feel privileged to have had the opportunity to deliver education and support services for transgender people, gender diverse individuals, people questioning gender identity and their families, partners and loved ones through the Gender Journeys program. We look forward to continuing to support through the new Trans Peer Outreach program," says Christine Crough, manager of peer initiatives and employment supports with CMHA Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge.

Trans Peer Outreach services, CMHA

says, are founded upon the principle that peers can better understand, relate to and support individuals who may have gone through similar experiences. One-to-one peer support can provide assistance in several areas, most notably in reducing isolation, developing wellness tools and strategies, accessing supportive communities, exploring gender identity and coming up with strategies to assist with transitioning.

The program will offer a core support group for people exploring gender identity and expression, which will cover topics such as exploring your sense of self, finding trans-friendly health care and coming out to family, friends and co-workers.

The Trans Peer Outreach Program will serve residents of Haliburton County, as well as Peterborough, the City of Kawartha Lakes and Northumberland County.

For more information, visit cmhahkpr.ca, or contact local Trans Peer Outreach workers Joaquin Santana and Carl Cruise-Baxter by emailing transpeeroutreach@cmhahkpr.ca.

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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir

All vaccines are important

IT'S INTERESTING how quickly things can change in the world of science, especially as it pertains to COVID-19.

Looking back to the final few months of 2020, shortly after Health Canada had approved both the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines for use across the country, all the talk was of an entirely different medication that health care professionals and some select politicians felt should have been front of the queue.

Indeed, the hype and furore surrounding the AstraZeneca vaccine was substantial. At its height, last fall, the drug was labelled as something of a coronavirus saviour – the shot in the arm the world needed to get back to normal.

Even here in Haliburton County, the local health region's acting medical officer of health Dr. Ian Gemmill lauded the AstraZeneca vaccine as a "game changer," due to its ability to be stored in fridges as opposed to high-level freezers and capacity to, supposedly, be administered in a single dose.

As we so often see in the world though, hype dies. And boy did it ever die with AstraZeneca.

By the time the drug was approved for use in Canada last Thursday [Feb. 26], it had already been labelled a failure by many experts. Perhaps that is unfair, especially since the vaccine shows that it does, largely, prevent serious cases of COVID-19 that can often lead to death. Still, for something many felt would be a game changer, results from various clinical trials have flat-tered to deceive to this point.

When compared alongside the Pfizer and Moderna products, which each boasted 95 per cent effectiveness in preventing COVID-19 infections during its trials, efficacy of the AstraZeneca vaccine is believed to be around 62 per cent, as reported by CBC. Not terrible, but not great either.

When questioned on this, Supriya

Sharma, chief medical officer of Health Canada, said the benefits of bringing the AstraZeneca vaccine to Canada far outweighed the negatives.

And, honestly, she's right. Since giving the green light to the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines in December, around 1.9 million doses have been administered. According to CBC, that accounts for around 2.6 per cent of our population being vaccinated. With Prime Minister Justin Trudeau reassuring the nation that all those who want to receive the vaccine will have the opportunity to get it by September, we really need to get a move on.

Canada ordered 24 million doses of AstraZeneca, to go along with the 40 million doses of Pfizer and 44 million doses of Moderna that have already been secured. Collectively, that's enough to inoculate nearly 54 million people. With a population of around 38 million here in Canada, that's more than enough to go around. The problem is going to be making sure all of those doses arrive when they're supposed to.

We saw how quickly things can go awry last month, when the shutdown of a Pfizer production plant in Belgium halted delivery of the vaccine to Canada. We need to have as many options available to us as possible, so that when issues occur we can continue pressing forward. It was good news to hear that a fourth vaccine, produced by Johnson & Johnson, could be approved later this month.

AstraZeneca may not be as effective at providing complete protection as some of the other options, but at the end of the day it's proven that it prevents the most serious cases. It's stopping people from dying.

Given the number of lives we've lost due to this horrible virus – 22,006 here in Canada as of press time, and 2.53 million worldwide – that's the important take away. In my view, that should be the only take away.



mike
baker

Editorial



Sunburst over Head Lake

by Darren Lum

Perfect

IF YOU MET me, I'm pretty sure it would never cross your mind to think or say "Hey, you are overweight." It is more likely you would smile and say "you are strong, you have soft ears, your nails are so sharp and your coat is so smooth." You'd probably admire how I can climb and jump and leap with ease from one piece of furniture to another. You would say to yourself "that cat is practically perfect in every way."

So imagine my surprise when the vet told my humans that I am getting a little overweight and need to cut back on my eating. We are in a pandemic for heaven's sake. Everyone has put on a few pounds. We are all spending more time on the couch. I admit I have a saggy belly from my operation a few years ago, and perhaps it has gotten a bit bigger, but I love myself. I think I am perfect exactly as I am. I wouldn't change anything. The vet has other ideas. She told my owners that I can't put on any more weight. I need to get more exercise. I should consider eating diet food. Seriously kill me now if you take away my joy of eating. The dog I live with gets bones stuffed with peanut butter, cheese, kibble and other treats. I get dry little cat treats out of box. Tell me how this is even fair. And don't get me started on the exercise. It's been a long winter and I have lost my motivation to run around. There is nothing I love more than curling

up on the couch, tucking into the soft blanket and napping my day away. I am so happy. I'm not bothering anyone. Why can't they all just leave me alone. My humans obsess about walking the dog three times a day. Out they go in all kinds of weather. That's what dogs love. And people too I guess. Not me. I am happy inside, curled up in front of the fireplace. I love to dream and snore and when I'm feeling really good I wake everyone up in the middle of the night for little cuddling. My life is great. And for the record I do get exercise when the dog chases me around the house every night after dinner. We run circles and dive under tables and behind furniture and onto beds. That dog who gets all that "so called great exercise" can't keep up with me. I am four and she is only one and I win every time. I am still in the prime of my life! I need my good food and my long winter naps. I

am living my perfect life. I know the vet and my humans just want to keep me healthy and fit so I live a good long life. I am thinking that spring is coming and that will inspire all of us, furry and human, to find our motivation and get going again. We will all get off the couch and we will all embrace the longer days, the warmer temperatures and the return of the leaves and the flowers. And those extra few covid kilograms will dissolve! I promise. The end.

Tales from
the great



lynda
shadbolt

Green meadow

Submitted by Luna the cat



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points of view

The wrong gesture

I AM NOT a Nazi. In fact, like all good humans, I loathe that horrific movement and all it entails. Admittedly, not a lot of humour columns start off with this sort of statement. But recent circumstances have caused me to think that making this clear was the right thing to do.

Permit me to explain.

You see, for the last few months I have been training Rosie, my field bred springer spaniel. For those who do not know, springer spaniels are a flushing dog. This means their job is to flush game birds, rabbits and hares in front of the hunter's gun.

A hunter's ultimate goal, therefore, is to train his or her flushing dog to sit automatically whenever it flushes game – and to remain seated until told its OK to move.

This serves primarily to keep the dog safely out of the line of fire, which would not be the case if it continued to pursue the flushed animal.

Also, if the dog is sitting it can watch the shot and mark any downed game for retrieval. Lastly, while sitting, the dog will not flush other game while the hunter is distracted by the one just moved.

The first step in achieving this lofty goal is to get the pup to sit on command whether near or far. You do so by using a hand signal combined with a voice or whistle command. The hand signal is why I am writing this column.



steve
galea

Loon Tales

To get your spaniel to sit, you raise your hand smartly forward and over your head so that the dog can see the palm of your hand. This presents visual confirmation to sit and is used when wind or background noise makes the voice command harder to hear – also at times when you want to be quiet so you don't spook game in the immediate area.

The other day, however, shortly after I was training Rosie in a field, it finally occurred to me why a person who had watched me do this, shook his head and gruffly walked away. They must have thought I was repeatedly giving Rosie a Nazi salute. And it probably didn't help that whenever I raised my hand Rosie sat and snapped smartly to attention.

So, first let me confirm I was not teaching her the Nazi salute. I was training her to sit.

Secondly, let me remind you that the only thing it takes for evil to take hold is for good men to do nothing. So shame on you sir for just walking away.

The point is one gesture should not cause you to jump to the wrong conclusion – especially since I am not clicking my boots together or making my back ramrod straight when I command my dog to sit. Or demanding that the training should run on time.

I'm hoping this column will forevermore dispel any rumours that might have taken root about a local fascist publicly training dogs. The unfortunate similarity between those two hand gestures makes me also realize how horrible it must have also been for any fully trained spaniel to live in Nazi Germany.

For my part, I have started to hold my hand a little more to the side, so it looks even less like that evil iconic salute. And just to be sure there is no mistake, I'll be a lot more discreet when using the heel command too.

pic of the past



A photo of the Grade 7 class from Victoria Street School from back in 1947. /Submitted by Doreen Rae

letters to the editor

Concerns over proposed Hwy. 413

Using the pandemic for political cover, the Ford government is fast-tracking Highway 413, cutting through 55 km of prime farmlands, conservation land, waterways and protected areas. The corresponding urban sprawl will destroy some of Ontario's most productive farmland. There has been no formal Agricultural Impacts Assessment of the proposed highway and the government wants to avoid a full environmental assessment, opting for a streamlined (faster, less thorough) version. Based on an expert panel report which concluded that the highway was "not the best way to address the region's changing transportation needs", the project was cancelled in 2018. Costing approximately, \$6 billion, commuters would save only 30 seconds per trip.

Why should residents of Haliburton County care?

1. Food security. As domestic food production is decreased by destroying farmland, we become more dependent upon expensive imported food. In the words of Peter Victor, economist and chair of the Green Belt council, "Once we've paved over the lands that provide our food supply, it's gone forever. And you can't eat real estate."

2. The highway cost will be borne by taxpayers. Cheaper, more environmentally friendly alternatives to solve congestion were identified in the expert panel report.

3. It is important Ontarians are confident large infrastructure or industrial proposals are examined through proper environmental assessments. If protections can be waived to expedite projects elsewhere, the same shortcuts could bring irreversible environmental, economic and social effects to Haliburton as well.

4. Agriculture, food processing, tourism and recreational industries are being put at risk, endangering jobs and billions in economic activity.

6. Increased traffic will produce more greenhouse gases putting climate goals at risk.

Development in Ontario must benefit the majority of Ontarians and enhance quality of life. A government that claims to be "for the people" probably isn't. Actions speak more loudly than words.

Elizabeth Turner
Concerned Citizens of Haliburton County

Introducing Words of Warmth

To the Editor,

Since last April SIRCH has been providing meals, soups, and fruit to people who are struggling. They may struggle because of depression, illness, lack of resources or other reasons. SIRCH Community Kitchen volunteers and staff cook nutritious food several days a week to ensure that our community members don't go hungry. Over 26,000 portions have been frozen and provided to residents across the county since last April.

But now another concern (along with food security) is emerging. Rising rates of depression, anxiety and other mental health issues are becoming more evident as the pandemic continues. People are feeling isolated, alone, lonely. Providing nourishing food is important but now we want adults, youth and children who struggle, and who receive our meals, to know that they're not alone. To know that this community cares. We need the help of your readers!

All of us know what a huge difference a kind word or a warm smile can make when you're feeling down. So we would like to ask your readers to write down a few encouraging words that we can print and pass on to everyone who gets a SIRCH meal. Comments you'd want to hear if you were

alone and isolated. Maybe "You have more friends than you ever imagined, and we're all rooting for you." Or "You are such a special person. And realize it or not, you have had such an impact on the world." Or "Do you see all the signs lined up ... it's going to be an awesome day!" Or whatever message you would like to convey.

We're calling this initiative "Community Kitchen Words of Warmth." Recipients of our meals know that dedicated Community Kitchen volunteers put their hearts into the meals, and now we are looking for messages to go out with them. Messages can be short and simple, or lengthier, it's up to you! Just speak from the heart. Now more than ever our community needs to be lifted up and what better way to do it than through receiving words of affirmation.

To contribute, go to our website at: www.sirch.on.ca/words-of-warmth/. There is no deadline to send a message. Feel free to write one message or as many as you want. This can and will make a profound difference to those who will read them. Take a few minutes and show you care.

Gena Robertson, Executive Director
SIRCH Community Services

Jaycock plans to keep community connections

CHAD INGRAM

Staff Reporter

One of Canoe FM's iconic figures is moving away from Haliburton County, but listeners of the community volunteer radio station are still likely to hear Mike Jaycock's signature baritone on the air thanks to some assistance from digital technology.

Jaycock and wife Jane will be relocating to Ingersoll, Ont., later this month to live nearer to their children, grandchildren, and a brother to whom Jaycock is very close.

"It's one of the toughest decisions we've ever faced," Jaycock says of the couple's decision to move. "We knew there'd come a time when we wanted to be close to family."

They retired to their property on Eagle Lake about 18 years ago, having bought it a half-decade prior and using it as a cottage up until that point. "We didn't know anyone," Jaycock says. "Absolutely no one."

To familiarize himself with the community, Jaycock arranged a meeting with Martha Perkins, then-editor of the *Echo*. He remembers Perkins imparting this wisdom: "When you move up here, you'll be living here. You're not cottaging."

In other words, better find something to do.

It just so happened that at the time, a burgeoning Canoe FM was freshly on the air. It also just so happened that Jaycock had a professional background in radio, beginning his career as a rock n' roll DJ in Hamilton in the 1960s. He would retire decades later as the president of an ad agency.

At the time, Dave Sovereign, one of Canoe FM's founders, was hosting a weekday morning show.

"He said he could use some help with the morning show," Jaycock says, explaining he began filling in a few days a week.

Before very long, Jaycock was hosting the morning show five days a week, broadcasting live from the station each day, something he did for solid decade. He remembers lots of early morning drives on some snowy and rainy days from Eagle Lake to the Canoe FM studio, located in Haliburton Village.

Jaycock's run on the morning show would come to an end when he was diagnosed with Meniere's disease, a condition affecting the inner-ear and resulting in extreme spells of vertigo, and which Jaycock acquired from years of driving a convertible.

"I had some really scary moments when I was having attacks," he said. "Once I had one on the air. I remember Lorraine's eyes were as wide as saucers."

Jaycock gave the cue to his co-host that he'd be back with her once his spell subsided, leaving her to fly solo



Mike Jaycock, seen here preparing notes during the 2014 Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce awards gala, and wife Jane are moving to Ingersoll, Ont. in late March. / File photo

for a while.

Lorraine McNeil was Jaycock's long-time on-air-companion, the two frequently cracking each other up, on and off the air. McNeil passed away from a combination of cancer and pneumonia in 2018.

Jaycock remembers vividly the first time he met her. McNeil had been performing with her friend Maureen James, also since deceased, as comedy duo Lo and Mo at a community event.

"I was really captivated by Lorraine, her sense of timing and her obvious good nature," Jaycock recalls. "It was like Velcro. We just gelled."

He remembers the summer the pair produced The Highlands Radio Almanac, which was a travelling show broadcast live from locations throughout the county on 10 Saturdays. Jaycock wrote 30-page scripts for the shows, and the pair interviewed guests, had musical performers, and even did live commercials – true old-school radio.

"It was a huge undertaking," Jaycock says, adding that it was also incredibly rewarding, and crediting a number of Canoe FM volunteers who helped make it happen. In all of his time on radio, he says the most fun he ever had was with McNeil.

While taking a proverbial step back after his departure from the morning show, Jaycock has continued to remain active with the station, hosting the Friday Drive Show, The Mayor's Message and other programming. During his years behind the microphone, he's interviewed everyone from Canadian comedy legends Rick Mercer and

Ron James to best-selling authors to myriad members of the community about their projects and passions.

"We always did a Christmas show," Jaycock says, that production broadcast live from the radio hall, often featuring the music of Loney, Love and Love, and with county residents passing through to bring festive greetings. "It was just full of togetherness and love."

He also fondly recalls hosting the Polar Bear Challenge, a fundraiser for the Haliburton & District Lions Club, where residents raise money and then jump into the icy waters of Head Lake, crediting Canoe FM production technician Ron Murphy for braving the chilly temperatures to ensure all went smoothly.

Canoe FM manager Roxanne Casey says it's difficult to fully capture the immense contributions Jaycock has made to the station, including serving years as its president, designing the logo with the man in a canoe, providing mentorship and coaching to other volunteers, and establishing a relationship with the CBC that has allowed Canoe FM some unique interview opportunities.

"Mike is simply one of the best and we will all miss his coming and going at the station," Casey told the *Echo*. "I can personally thank him for all his support and words of wisdom, especially in my early years of this job. I will truly miss this gentleman."

Jaycock intends to continue to contribute to Canoe FM once he's settled in his new home by recording interviews, and, once a new broadcast board is installed at the station, perhaps even going live-to-air once again.

"You literally take over the station from home," Jaycock says of the capabilities the new board will provide.

Jaycock's volunteerism didn't end at the radio station, with him frequently lending his wit and commanding public speaking ability to numerous organizations in the county, emceeding countless events, auctions and galas. From the Haliburton Hospital Auxiliary, of which Jane has been a part, to SIRCH Community Services, to the Ontario Seniors' Games, to the Haliburton Sculpture Forest, to Tall Pine Tales, a project by members of the writers' and editors' network, the list is incredibly long.

"Special events have been a big part of my volunteer life up here," Jaycock says. "I was always glad to help with their events."

For years, Jaycock regularly emceed the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce's annual awards gala, where he didn't hold back in roasting municipal politicians and other local public figures. He explains he always let them know that he only poked fun at people he liked.

At one of those galas, Jaycock was given the chamber's prestigious Highlander of the Year Award, and he was also recognized by the Haliburton Rotary Club with a Paul Harris Fellowship for his community volunteerism.

McNeil and Jaycock also founded the Haliburton Highlands Shindig, an annual fundraiser for Fuel for Warmth, a charitable organization that helps county residents heat their homes during the winter. The shindig is a variety show featuring local musical acts and other guests, and is hosted by the dazzling Dame Beatrice – Jaycock in a wig, high heels and dress, and sporting a British lady's accent. The seventh annual shindig took place this past November, and Jaycock hinted that even though he is leaving the county, it's possible Dame Beatrice may return.

Jaycock says it's been emotional packing for the move, with a flood of memories coming back to him, and while it was the aesthetics of the Haliburton Highlands that first brought him and Jane to the county, it's the friends they are leaving behind that are top of mind as they prepare to depart.

"We'll miss the beauty of the Highlands and everything that entails," he says. "More importantly, it's about people. We will miss the community."



Chinook 30

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Community biking challenge pencilled in for September

MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Haliburton's Friends of the Rail Trail [FoRT] are hoping to kick-start a brand new annual event.

Pamela Marsales, a FoRT member, says the organization want to organize a family-friendly bike challenge that would take place during the second weekend in September. She spoke to Dysart Council last week to explain the group's plans.

"The event will be after Labour Day and before Hike Haliburton – we're just sneaking in there [when] there's nothing else happening in the village," Marsales said. "We believe this could become a signature event for Dysart and Haliburton, and can be developed almost as a self-guiding tour."

The event itself was initially conceived around 10 years ago by Marsales herself, but a safe and complete route couldn't be finalized. However, the opening of Barnum Creek Nature Reserve late in 2020

presented a new opportunity.

Outlining a route, Marsales says participants would begin in downtown Haliburton, by the skate park, before climbing the Sky Slider path. Travelling through the woods, bikers would eventually reach Skyline Park and continue on to Skyline Park Road, turn onto Parish Line through 'Four Corners' and go to the end of Cowan Road. Entering Barnum Creek through a "back gate", riders will then travel along forestry road before reaching the Heritage Hike marked trail. They will then exit Barnum Creek, onto a multi-use trail – the site of Haliburton's oldest pioneer road. This eventually transitions into Gould Crossing Road and, later, the Haliburton County Rail Trail. Eventually, after crossing Gelert Road, participants will come out near Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, cross Highland Street, and complete their ride by travelling along the shore of Head Lake, coming to a final stop at Head Lake Park.

"This is an opportunity to show how different routes in and around our community can be connected to create one big

loop," Marsales said.

Various community groups have already voiced their support for the event, including the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust, Rails End Gallery, Sir Sam's Ski/Ride and both the Real Easy Ryders Cycling Club and Haliburton Highlands Trekkers.

The Haliburton Highlands Museum is also interested in taking part, largely in an attempt to shed some light on and educate participants on the various historical sites scattered throughout the loop.

"The crazy history of the Sky Slider, the history of a pioneer farm in Barnum Creek, and of course the oldest road in Haliburton – the unopened road allowance between Cowan Road and Gould Crossing Road," Marsales said. "The museum really wants to help convey some of our local history."

In operation since 2007, FoRT has regularly provided public programming to the community either free of charge, or for a nominal fee. However, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the group has had to cancel two seasons of its Sunday Ram-

bles, which, Marsales says, is where they get most of their membership renewals.

"This is a first-time fundraiser for us. We've been around for a lot of years, and have always provided public programming for free, or very affordably. If we ever had to do a ticketed event, it was designed to break-even because we wanted to welcome the greatest number of people," she said.

Marsales expects a registration fee for the ride will run around the \$20 or \$25 mark. All money raised will help support the Haliburton County Rail Trail Linear Park project.

Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts said the event has some potential.

"It seems a really great route... I'm sure it will be a very successful event. People will be looking forward to doing something fun like this in September," Roberts said.

Council directed township staff to assist FoRT with planning the event.

'We need to assume coronavirus is everywhere' says Dr. Gemmill

from page 1

quickly," he said in comments shared by the health unit an hour after the press conference.

"The source of all of these VOCs are tied to contacts with others outside the HKPRDHU region," Gemmill said in comments. "The nine VOCs involve three clusters and a single case ... and in all these situations, these local VOCs are well under control as the people involved are isolating and limiting their contacts."

In last week's meeting, Gemmill said he did not have at that time the information about where the cases were located, nor which strain had been identified.

When it was noted by a reporter that people are concerned and want further information, Gemmill said:

"We need to assume that coronavirus is everywhere," he said. "We need to assume that the variants could pop up anywhere. So far, they've all had the acquisition outside of our area, which means it's not being transmitted in [the HKPR region]. I agree there's a public interest in knowing which county it's in, we'll get that for you, but I think that people need to behave as though they could be exposed to this at any point. I think that's a message I have to keep repeating, repeating, repeating, because it's so key to the preventative measures."

On Feb. 9, the region's first identified

variant of concern was reported. That case was linked to a resident in Port Hope, and later at a Feb. 17 press conference, Gemmill said two of that resident's household contacts were also identified as having variant cases of COVID-19, noting that those individuals had been isolating.

"This is a controlled situation," said Gemmill at that time. "Since they've all been quarantined, I'm not worried particularly about these cases."

Across Ontario, Gemmill said at the Feb. 17 press conference, the proportion of positive cases constituted by the variants of concern are rising, and he was hearing "worrisome chatter" about it being identified in other parts of Ontario.

"We have been affected, but in a very minor way, but this is becoming a big issue across the province of Ontario," he said.

The variants are more transmissible than the original virus, and can amplify cases because of the ease in which they spread, which has led to speculation about a potential third wave and lockdown to protect hospital capacity.

"Anything is possible, but I'll be completely forthright with you, the way this variant is behaving, the one [identified in] the U.K. primarily, I'm not sure we're going to have control of it, so it could theoretically replace the original virus and become the dominant one, and then it's going to be a lot more difficult to control,"

said Gemmill.

As of the March 1 HKPRDHU health unit update, Haliburton County has zero confirmed cases of COVID-19, with one current high-risk contact. City of Kawartha Lakes currently has 11 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 40 high-risk contacts, and Northumberland County has 21 current cases of COVID-19 and 58 high-risk con-

tacts.

"What is worrisome is the continuing spread of coronavirus variants across Ontario," said Gemmill in Feb. 24 comments. "We are likely to see more of these VOCs in our region, so the need to take public health prevention measures continues to be important until more people are vaccinated."

HCDC dishes out around \$6.7 million in loans throughout pandemic

from page 1

under our portfolio," Tallman said.

In May, HCDC received \$1.7 million in capitalization funding from the federal government allowing for loans of up to \$40,000 with 25 per cent of the amount forgivable. Subsequent top ups provided \$40,000 loans with up to 50 per cent forgivable. So far, 42 loans totalling nearly \$1.4 million have been dispersed through that funding program.

By sector, main street businesses constituted 22 per cent of loans; sole-proprietor businesses 48 per cent; and tourism operators 30 per cent. By industry, accom-

modators and food services accounted for 32.4 per cent of loans; arts, entertainment and recreation 2.16 per cent; retail 13.5 per cent; and manufacturing 5.4 per cent. Businesses classified as "other" – including education services, utilities and professional services – accounted for 27 per cent.

HCDC has also provided \$5.3 million in funding through its regular loan program since the pandemic began. Tallman thanked Dysart et al Deputy Mayor Pat Kennedy, who is currently chairman of the HCDC board, for his leadership during the crisis.



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Dorset man worried about 3 wolves that are 'too comfortable' in community

MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A Dorset man is concerned by the lack of accountability at both the provincial and municipal levels as a pack of wolves run roughshod over his tiny, rural hamlet.

Mike Baum has lived in the area for practically his whole life. Having been "raised in the woods", with extensive experience studying wild animals, Baum admitted the current situation involving three wolves is "unusual, disturbing and unsettling."

Since arriving on the scene late last year, the wolves have been spotted in populated areas at all time of the day, and, at this point, appear to have scared away deer that regularly congregated in

the area, and killed off all of the community's feral cats.

"Typically, wolves are extremely afraid of humans. That's inherent in their normal behaviour," Baum told the *Echo*. "Through all of my years hunting, if we were even able to catch a glimpse of a wolf, it was like a huge reward, or experience of the year, because usually they won't go anywhere where they can sense, or smell humans."

But that isn't the case with this particular pack, who Baum believes have made their home in the bush behind Portico Timber Frames, just off Highway 35.

At night time especially, he has witnessed them wandering along Dorset's Main St. with increased regularity. Mike's daughter, Sabrina, who also lives in Dorset, has actually caught the wolves on a

motion camera she recently installed at her property. That decision was brought on by a close encounter of her own earlier this winter, when she caught one of the wolves lurking behind her vehicle as she walked down her front steps.

While Sabrina was fortunate in the sense that she, nor her pet Husky were attacked, fellow Dorset resident Rebecca Sims says her family wasn't so fortunate.

Back on Dec. 11, after letting one of her family's dogs outside on the front porch, it was attacked, by either a coyote or a wolf, Rebecca says. The animal would eventually succumb to its injuries.

This wasn't the first unpleasant encounter the Sims family have had with wild animals since moving to the area in 2017 – a couple of years ago they found a dead deer beside their home, that she believed had been killed for sport, displaying only a single wound and no evidence it had been eaten.

The incident surrounding the Sims' dog has caused concerns throughout the community, Baum says. For Rebecca and her family, it's changed the way they live their life.

"The proximity [of the attack] causes great concern. We have taken measures to ensure we are outside with the kids whenever possible, and we have installed more exterior lights [on our property], as well as [creating] a well-lit pathway between our home and the neighbours," Sims said. "Our entire family has been affected by the loss of our pet. My older son, who is eight years old, saw our injured dog outside. Given how dark it was, we aren't sure how much he was able to see that morning, but he was very aware of how much pain our dog was in. It is something that has left a huge mark on all of us."

While Sims didn't report the incident, Baum has been in regular contact with officials from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry [MNR]. He says the responses he's received to date are "quite discouraging."

Baum says he was given the contact number of a local trapper, although the Ministry cautioned against the practice, expressing concern that regular pets, such as cats and dogs, could get caught in the crosshairs. He was also asked to canvass homes in the area, to see if anyone was leaving garbage outside for a prolonged period, or, worse, feeding any of the wild animals that live in the area.

"That was laughable. As a concerned citizen, reporting a real issue... To then be told myself to go out into my community and

“

I honestly don't think they have a strategy for this kind of situation, because it is so rare.

— Mike Baum, Dorset resident

canvass," Baum laughed, shaking his head. "I honestly don't think they have a strategy for this kind of situation, because it is so rare."

In the end, Baum says he was told the control of wild animals was more of a municipal issue. When we asked Greg Moore, a bylaw officer with Algonquin Highlands, if this was, in fact, the case, he responded by saying "the municipality does not have jurisdiction over the control of wild animals."

Following up with the MNR, provincial officials appeared to pass the buck back into the township's court.

"Municipalities are responsible for decisions regarding appropriate action when human-wildlife encounters create ongoing conflict situations on municipal property, and can also take action on private property with the permission of the landowner," says Jolanta Kowalski, MNR media relations officer.

Kowalski confirmed the ministry's Parry Sound district office received a call regarding wolves in the Dorset area back in December, however without photographic or physical evidence, she said it cannot confirm whether the animals in question are wolves or coyotes, as their appearance and behaviour can be very similar. She confirmed the office had followed up by providing information on how to prevent and manage conflicts with wildlife on private property.

Baum says there's no questioning that these animals are wolves, saying they are fully grown and estimating them to be around 100 pounds. He wants to see action taken to prevent any further issues from occurring in the Dorset area.

"My fear is, if these wolves are so comfortable that they're walking down our main street, and attacking family pets on their property, then what's next? God forbid they attack a child," Baum said. "Even I find myself looking over my shoulder now when I'm out in the community. It's an eerie, uncomfortable, unsettling feeling. I grew up knowing that wolves are afraid of humans, and avoid human contact at all costs. That's part of their preservation, part of their DNA. What we're seeing with these wolves is the total opposite of that."

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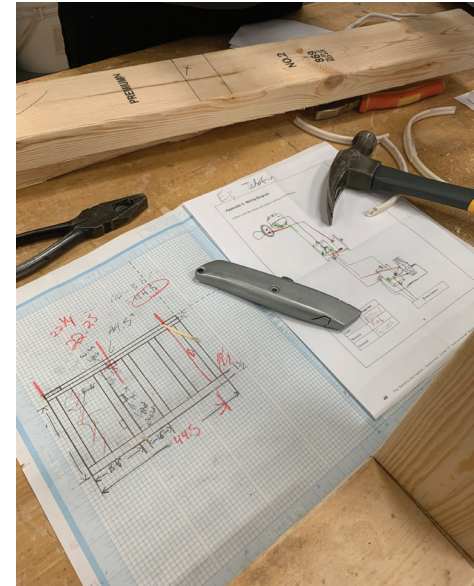
One of our goals in our partnership was to help build a valuable program that will continue to be offered to students allowing them to experience gain knowledge about the trades. Our members in the pre-COVID-19 days would attend classes and speak directly to the students. They would speak on a number of topics ranging from how to show up for work on time and dressed appropriately, the importance of basic math and writing skills and sometimes the members tell of their experience in the industry. This year with the restrictions the HCHBA was pleased to support the Octo-Block five Construction class with the materials and other items required to complete the Building systems project for this term.

General Course Description as per the MOE (Ministry of Education) for the current Block five tech class is the following:

The course focuses on the development of knowledge and skills related to residential construction. Students will gain hands-on experience using a variety of construction materials, processes, tool and equipment. They will learn about building design and planning construction projects. They will create and interpret working drawings and sections and how the Ontario Building Code and other regulations and standards apply to construction projects. Students will also develop an awareness of environmental and societal issues related to construction technology and will explore career opportunities in the trades.

According to HHSS Technical Studies Construction & Woodworking teacher, Chris Simpson, we are doing our best to develop and foster an additional option in technical studies that further focuses on residential construction and repair. Whether it provides some basic building, building systems knowledge and experience or sparks additional interest for students to consider OYAP and apprenticeship opportunities.

Considering the COVID-19 restrictions and course scheduling we are focusing on primarily typical stick wood wall conventional construction. With some basic electrical circuits, wire routing and drywall installation and finishing. All



great skill sets to experience in the school environment and also allows them to employ additional essential skills and work habits that we can further aid in developing. The important skills needed to be a well-rounded trade employee like initiative and reliability, math skills, accurate measuring skills, document use and graphical interpretation.

This block began on February 3 and will continue until March 9 and so far, we have already had two inclement weather days (snow days) where the students were not able to work on their projects and instead furthered explored some of the theory and design elements virtually. It is hard to imagine the complexity of how the schedule is kept on time. Keep in mind the students are asked to stay on track for close to five hours a day in class. This must be next to impossible. Even the most dedicated students will be struggling to keep on task.

The residential construction industry in Haliburton County is one of the top employers. Most if not all sectors of the industry are year-round employers with competitive wages and benefits. It is important to our members that we do whatever we can to promote the students who may someday be our employees. The HCHBA could not do this alone. We have a strong group of sponsors who believe in our association and the work that we are doing in the community.



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Sales of 'Girl Gang' T-shirts benefit food banks

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

Lifelong friends and newly formed business partners Kirsten Rae and Kelly Kay are paying it forward to the community they've always called home through the sale of T-shirts with what they call an empowering phrase, 'Support Your Local Girl Gang' on the front.

Since they started selling the black T-shirts with white lettering made by CoHo Apparel on Feb. 21 through a Facebook post, \$1,000 in proceeds has been raised and donated to the 4Cs Food Bank and another \$600 raised of a \$1,000 goal to be donated to the Minden Community Food Bank.

Kay said it was exciting to present the \$1,000 cheque to Haliburton Food Bank treasurer Judy MacDuff recently.

"We didn't really have any expectations going into it. Oh, maybe, we'll sell a few shirts to our friends here and there and raise a couple hundred dollars, and then when we did the post it kind of blew up. And we kept having to order more shirts. We were blown away. It was definitely very exciting to be able to donate that much money," she said.

Rae said MacDuff told them the \$1,000 donation would cover almost all of the costs associated with the purchase of a month's worth of fresh vegetables for the food bank.

The Haliburton County-based realtors with close to 10 years of combined work experience in real estate have known each other all their lives, starting their friendship at the Wee Care in Haliburton and



Flanked by Kelly Kay, left, and Kirsten Rae, right, the 4Cs Food Bank treasurer Judy MacDuff accepts \$1,000 donation from the proceeds raised by the sale of "Girl Gang" T-shirts. Submitted by Kirsten Rae

continued to Victoria Street School, then J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary school and at the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School where they graduated in 2006.

The two mothers, both with a son and daughter, said the charitable aspect was to help as many people as they could during the pandemic. Their volunteer experiences working with children was the backbone of the charitable component to selling the T-shirts. Rae and Kay have volunteered for Food for Kids at their chil-

dren's respective primary schools in Minden and Haliburton.

"I know the need for healthy food in the community so we thought especially during the pandemic that would be a way for us to really reach the most people in the community is to donate to the food bank," Rae said.

Before real estate, Kay's professional work history provided her an insight to how students depend on the work by the food banks and programs such as Food for Kids.

"Before I was in real estate I worked at the school board as an educational assistant so I've seen what kids bring for lunch and the kids that come to the school hungry. You don't necessarily realize until you are actually in the room with the kid," she said.

The T-shirt, Rae said, also has the added benefit of being part of the friends' marketing efforts related to raising the profile of their new business partnership in real estate, which was officially launched Kay Rae Real Estate earlier this year on Jan. 1. The Support Your Local Girl Gang statement, Rae said, references their local business partnership and their gender. "And with Kelly and I starting this venture, we just thought, 'Hey, this is great. We're one of the only female real estate teams in the area so 'Support Your Local Girl Gang,' she said.

Buy the 100 per cent cotton T-shirts, which are offered in unisex sizes from XS to XXL, locally at the Beauty Basics by Amy at 136 Bobcaygeon Road in Minden or by direct message through Facebook to Rae and Kay. There is free local drop off delivery, and free mail delivery anywhere

in Ontario for the \$30 T-shirts.

Rae anticipates the \$1,000 donation they hope to raise for the Minden Community Food Centre will be met within a few weeks. She wasn't sure about who would be the next charitable recipient, but after the success she believes anything is possible.

So far there is just the one design and colour combination of black and white, but Rae said they'll consider other possibilities such as adding a tank top or a new colour in spring or summer.

Kay and Rae are happy and appreciative for the support they have seen in posts and in sales.

This achievement gives power to the importance of looking within your own community, whether it's a service or a product, and how it can help each other, Kay said.

"We just wanted to make people aware that you can support local and get things locally and check before you go out of town to buy something. Maybe it's available here. And from the donations from what we've done we're hoping that it makes people aware that when you do support local it goes back to the community," she said.

Rae said this effort's success is owed to the community here and across the province and the country.

"We're so appreciative of the feedback and the support we've gotten. We've shipped [the T-shirts] all over Ontario as well so the word is spreading and we're so thankful for the community support and the feedback we've received has been fantastic," she said.



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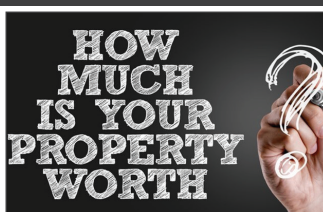
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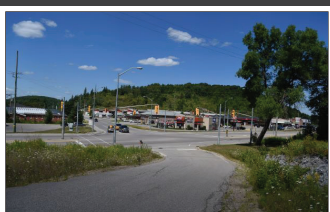
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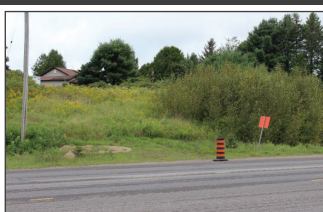
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Operatic artists form Racial Equity Advisory Council

SUE TIFFIN

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

As the pandemic progressed, so too did more public discussion of systemic racism alongside a rise in xenophobia, in which Asian people faced verbal and physical attacks and discrimination involving blame for the pandemic; the Black Lives Matter movement globally responding to the murder of George Floyd by police and the ongoing brutal treatment of Black people, and the continual injustices faced by Indigenous people, from unresolved cases of murdered and missing women to drinking water advisories.

Last summer, the Highlands Opera Studio responded to these challenges by looking within and having conversations to begin confronting the issue of systemic racism within the opera business.

"The subject of systemic racism is not a new one," said Valerie Kuinka, general and co-artistic director of HOS. "It is something that has gone on, it has been the dark underbelly of society for many years. I think we are all well-aware of that. The environment of 2020, in all of its difficulty and all of its challenges, also brought to light, through some of the atrocities that we're all aware of, problems that have been existing in society for years and years and years. Through these atrocities, things have been brought to a head. We have all had a chance to, perhaps, through the lockdown period, a chance to reflect more deeply on how we can make the world a better place."

In July, the Highlands Opera Racial Equity Advisory Council was formed, with the idea of promoting the work of



Andrew Balfour, composer (Mishaabooz's Realm, HOS commission, 2017) /Photo from <http://cameratanova.com/16/about-us/artistic-director/>



Samuel Chan, baritone (HOS '16, '17) /Photo from <https://www.deanartists.com/samuel-chan>



Suzanne Taffot, LLB, soprano (HOS '17, '18) /Photo from <https://en.lmopera.com/suzanne-taffot-media>



Matthew Gamble, baritone (HOS '14, '17) /Photo from <https://www.matthewgamblebaritone.com/>



Chantale Nurse, soprano (HOS '14, '15) /Photo from <http://www.chantalenurse.com/>

the Indigenous, Black and People of Colour [IBPoC] community of HOS through social media channels, and conducting 'In Conversation' sessions through Zoom, which Kuinka said on the HOS website would "open a dialogue, provide education, share stories and increase awareness and positive action." HOREAC members are Suzanne Taffot, Andrew Balfour, Samuel Chan, Matthew Gamble and Chantale Nurse, who have all worked with the company during summer professional training programs.

"The roots of this musical genre are Eurocentric, and many of our current performance and business practices are steeped in outdated traditions," said Chan on behalf of the council on the HOS website. "Up to now, many of us on this council along with our fellow IBPoC artists who wanted to pursue a professional career had no choice but to fit into white-centric molds, which included being racially cast in the same outdated produc-

tions and roles throughout their careers, as well as being overlooked during casting due to their physical appearance."

The first conversation in the initiative, focused on the importance and role of equity and diversity in opera, took place via Zoom on the afternoon of Feb. 28, with Chan moderating a meet and greet between the equity council and the HOS board and some community members.

Each council member spent a few moments sharing the subjects, interests and topics they wanted to put forth for exploration.

Taffot said a parallel could be drawn between action on the environmental crisis situation and the issue of systemic racism. First, she said, it should be acknowledged that it exists, and second, we should look at how we can, as individuals, work to overturn it by not denying it, or causing fear of victimization for people who share their experiences.

Equity, she said must be considered. When she auditioned for HOS, she was older than typical singers.

"I remember when I was checking other programs, I couldn't audition because already my age was a barrier," she said. One factor within systemic racism, she said is access to education. She was not aware of opera, she said, until she moved from Cameroon to France when she was 23, pursuing it later than many artists.

"Taking into consideration equity in a situation like this does not mean that we are giving a privilege to the person," she said. "It only means that we are trying to repair something in the injustice. We are trying to repair something that was created before, we are trying to repair in order for everyone to be equal. Because being equal doesn't mean that we should take away the question of equity. Equity doesn't mean equality. It's not giving a privilege. It's trying to repair an injustice that was created."

Andrew Balfour, composer of Mishaabooz's Realm, which HOS commissioned in 2017, said his perspective is unique as a "Sixties Scooper" of Cree descent who was removed from his home at the age of six months and grew up with a white family.

"I was lucky because I was brought up with music and loving and supportive parents, but I didn't know anything else about my culture or heritage," he said. "The act of taking children away from their blood and raising them in non-Indigenous families is an act of extreme, extreme systemic racism, apart from residential schools, no clean water in Indigenous communities up north, you name it. Indigenous people have a long, long history of facing systemic racism since the settlers first got here."

Balfour said that as a composer, he tries to deal with the issues Indigenous people have faced in the past decade or so, but said he feels society lacks the compassion and understanding to address the issues.

"The only way we can really get out of

these issues that are so ingrained in our society is through the arts," he said. "But to do that we need to heal the arts community."

Instead of the word 'decolonization,' Balfour prefers the word 'transformation.'

He spoke to the hierarchy that is daunting in larger performing arts companies, the lack of opportunity Indigenous people have in experiencing the opera while facing other challenges, the need for education and greater awareness of issues that face IBPoC communities, and that there are not easy answers.

"There's no easy answers, there's no possible way, even in Zoom, in the next year or two that we're going to solve all of these issues, but the discussion is happening and I applaud HOS and Valerie and Richard [Margison, artistic director], Samuel and everyone here - to give us time and voice and respect," he said. "That makes me feel a little bit better at the end of the day. We're not going to solve everything but we're able to listen, and I think that's the important thing right now."

Nurse said she hadn't necessarily thought of systemic racism in opera in the past, but said having the conversation was both instructional and helpful.

"It's so ingrained, these conscious biases, unconscious biases, people thinking you look a certain way, you have to sound a certain way, and I only cast you for these things because of the way that you look," she said. "How do you change people's minds, like that? What can we say - what can I say to somebody, to say, can you think outside of the box? Is that possible? How do we get to the root of that problem?"

Like Balfour, she said she didn't expect to see a simple solution to systemic racism in opera, or society in general.

"But I think the conversation is important, and I think that people are willing to have the conversation is important," she said. "It's not a question of us being victimized and talking about all of the horrible things, or whatever - situations that have occurred that have made us feel aside or less than, different, the other. Those situations, they've informed who we are as people, but that's not what I think we want to focus on."

Instead, she said the focus should be on "the next step."

"Acknowledging that these things happen," she said. "What is the next step? How do we get to a place where we have equity, diversity, inclusion at all levels - not just the artists on the stage, not just the composers, but also the musicians, also the tech people, the backstage people, the directors, the people at the top. Are they having these conversations? Are they aware, or is it just like, OK, we're going to do one night where we highlight Black composers and that's it, we've done our job."

She applauded HOS for bringing the

see UNCOMFORTABLE page 16

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Vaccine roll-out: 'trickle is starting to turn into a bit of a flow'

SUE TIFFIN

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The following are brief reports from the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit press conference with Dr. Ian Gemmill, acting medical officer of health, held on Feb. 24.

Thousands of vaccines came to the region last week, with more expected this week – enough to vaccinate long-term care staff and essential caregivers, and to start vaccinating high-priority frontline workers facing potential exposure to COVID-19 on a daily basis.

"We're not yet, to use the words of the leaders in Toronto, swimming in vaccine, but we're doing better in the vaccine department, the trickle is starting to turn into a bit of a flow," said Gemmill.

To date, 1,700 residents of long-term care homes in the region, and some staff when vaccines were left over, who wanted a vaccine have received their first shot of the Moderna vaccine, with second doses coming soon. The vaccines need to be given 28 days after the first shot, as per clinical trials.

"I'm really hopeful that this will be the end of outbreaks in long-term care homes," said Gemmill.

About 4,500 Pfizer vaccines were delivered last week for long-term care workers, essential caregivers connected to long-term care homes, and healthcare workers. Gemmill said the eventual arrival of fridge-stable vaccines, rather than those that require even lower temperatures, will help vaccinate members of the general population, starting with essential workers and those over the age of 80.

New information is coming to the vaccine advisory committee from the province regularly, said Gemmill, and planning is underway to prepare for the roll-out of mass immunization of the general population.

On Friday, Feb. 26, the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team, Haliburton Family Medical Centre, Haliburton County Paramedic Service, the County of Haliburton and Haliburton Highlands Health Services distributed a press release announcing they are working collaboratively with the public health unit to prepare for a community vaccination hub in Haliburton County. No firm timelines or clinic information is available at this time. Information regarding when, where and how to book appointments for vaccination will be available in the coming weeks via newspapers, local radio stations, social media and health care partner websites. There is not currently a wait list process.

1,029 cases total, 12 identified as variants of concern

The 1,000th case of confirmed COVID-19 since the pandemic began was reported in the region last week.

"It's not what's happened in the past, but what's happening recently that's the most important," said Gemmill, discussing the region's epidemiological reports.

He said there had been quite a marked decline in the running average of cases over the past few weeks, and that outbreaks were down as well.

"I think we are really in good shape at this point in time, and I really do want to stay in good shape," said Gemmill, noting he was moderately concerned that the low numbers were related to the stay-at-home orders, which were lifted by the provincial government on Feb. 16.

"I'm not sure what's going to happen with the end of this order, and that's what I'm a little bit worried about," he said. "I think there is the potential, if people don't follow the guidelines and restrictions that are in place, that we could end up with another rise, which means another lockdown possibly, and then back to where we were. I don't want that to happen."

Over the past few weeks, Gemmill has been reiterating concern that the reopening of the province would lead to people feeling relaxed about public health recommendations that are still in place, including physically distancing and mask-wearing, and has stressed that people

“

Masks are helpful, but the best way to keep yourself from getting exposed to this virus, is to stay in your household.

— Dr. Ian Gemmill, Acting medical officer of health HKPRDHU

should still stay home as much as possible.

"This is not rocket science," said Gemmill. "I see people saying, 'oh good, the numbers are going down, we're out of this.' Well, we won't be out of it, we won't be out of it as long as 98 per cent of the population is still susceptible to this."

He reminded the public to "keep the faith," and "keep behaving in ways" that will help keep the virus under control. Regarding the public's interest in identifying where variants of concern are located, Gemmill said it was important for people to focus on public health measures regardless of which form of the virus were spreading, and that wearing a mask is not a fail-safe option.

"Masks are helpful, but the best way to keep yourself from getting exposed to this virus, is to stay in your household," said Gemmill. "If nobody comes in and nobody leaves, you're not going to be exposed to this virus. If you have to go out, which we all do, to get groceries and other things, the masks are helpful. [Social distancing, masks, hand-washing are] all helpful in reducing that risk, but it doesn't eliminate the risk."

As of Monday, there had been 1,031 cases reported in the region, 14 of those being identified as the more transmissible NB501Y variant of concern.

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Uncomfortable conversations have to happen to move forward

from page 14

ideas to the forefront.
“They’re not easy ideas to talk about,” she said. “It’s not easy for me to talk to

you guys about systemic racism, it makes me feel uncomfortable, but the work has to be done so we can all move forward.”
Chan spoke to the topics of education, opera and race, asking how the three topics are intertwined and how they matter.

Crossword brought to you by

Ken Barry
705-754-5280
ken@kenbarry.com



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“Out Standing In My Field”

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
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- CLUES ACROSS

 - 1. One who manufactures
 - 6. Science degree
 - 9. Database management system
 - 13. Desert
 - 14. Inventor Musk
 - 15. Welsh valley
 - 16. Round Dutch cheese
 - 17. Saying
 - 18. Comedian and TV host
 - 19. Uppermost portions of the brain
 - 21. City in Transylvania
 - 22. Where astronauts go
 - 23. Men’s hairstyle
 - 24. Indicates position
 - 25. One point east of due south
 - 28. Businessmen may have one
 - 29. Grass part
 - 31. Running back Gurley
 - 33. Unwavering
 - 36. Options
 - 38. Annoy
 - 39. Greek mountain
 - 41. Pastas
 - 44. Fishes
 - 45. Wrap
 - 46. Potentially a criminal (slang)
 - 48. Seize
- 49. The Constitution State
 - 51. Upset
 - 52. 1991 men’s Wimbledon champ
 - 54. Central Chinese province
 - 56. Predisposition
 - 60. A notice of someone’s death
 - 61. One-time Kentucky Rep.
 - 62. Swiss river
 - 63. Dried-up
 - 64. Finger millet
 - 65. __ Allan Poe
 - 66. German river
 - 67. Brew
 - 68. Kenyan river

CLUES DOWN

 - 1. Millisecond
 - 2. Acts as military assistant
 - 3. Knot in a tree
 - 4. Husband-and-wife industrial designers
 - 5. The Ocean State
 - 6. Point the finger at
 - 7. Parts in a machine
 - 8. Midway between northeast and east
 - 9. Portray precisely
 - 10. Blister
 - 11. Mental illness
 - 12. Nose of an animal
- 14. What students receive
 - 17. Semitic peoples
 - 20. Beats per minute
 - 21. Family of drugs
 - 23. Atrocious
 - 25. Type of microscope (abbr.)
 - 26. __ or bust
 - 27. Icelandic poems
 - 29. A citizen of Pakistan
 - 30. Very pale
 - 32. Metric linear unit
 - 34. Sea eagle
 - 35. Biblical judge of Israel
 - 37. Isaac’s mother (Bib.)
 - 40. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
 - 42. Cool!
 - 43. Large hotel room
 - 47. Type of boat (abbr.)
 - 49. Picked
 - 50. Type of hookah
 - 52. Attack
 - 53. Directs
 - 55. Belgian WWII resistance fighter
 - 56. Finished negotiation
 - 57. Heroic tale
 - 58. Middle Eastern country
 - 59. Protein-rich liquids
 - 61. Malaysian Isthmus
 - 65. Spielberg’s alien

Answers on page 14

“When all of the racial awareness started happening within opera in the summer, a lot of the news I was hearing in the community came from the educational level, and the lack of opportunity that specifically performers of colour have into entering the very basic educational system that creates the opera singer, which is the university and conservatory level,” he said. “When it comes to racial representation in these institutions, yes, within classical music there’s quite a diverse representation in instrumental music as of now, and of course I am speaking rather bluntly, not in detail of this, but in opera, specifically in the training of opera, it is still an extremely - I hate to say this - racially biased art form. That is not entirely the educational system’s fault, often it has to do with the access that young people have to getting to hear what opera is, and to get into the interest of what it is.”

He noted the Eurocentric roots of the art form, and said that the history of how race was handled within opera performance as a whole does not offer much to be proud of.

“A lot of it is quite dark and quite hidden and is now being brought to light in a more honest manner,” he said. “Let me put it this way, it is quite, we’ve often forgotten as a community how radical it was for somebody like Leontyne Price, a Black American soprano, to be on the main stages at her time, at a time when Black-Americans in the States were having such a difficult time, even being recognized by their own government as equal citizens with everyone else.”

He noted that Gamble, who was not able to attend Sunday’s discussion, spoke often of how grateful he was that at HOS, the approach focused on vocal excellence, regardless of race.

“And for Matthew, specifically, he was so inspired by his time at HOS in the summer because it was his first experience within a summer institution where his skin colour never affected how he was spoken to and how he was talked to, and he really wanted to make sure everyone knew that, because it is important, that HOS, of course, keeps that mandate of voice first, as the importance behind its existence,” said Chan. “The importance of the education being that of, that you can gain access to wanting to say what you need to say through your voice, through an institution.”

Chan said he was very much looking forward to seeing how having an equity council helped with the educational com-

ponents of HOS.
Besides the series of online ‘In Conversation’ sessions hosted by Highlands Opera Studio, the company is also working on establishing a mentorship program in which the HOREAC, general and co-artistic directors and professional consultants would “guide, teach and advise” up to five aspiring opera professionals from the IBPoC community. In the meeting, Kuinka said HOS has always been merit-based, and would choose a select number of people based on the best voices heard, not depleting the value of the accomplishment of getting into the program by “changing our mandate to be checking boxes of tokenism.”

Kuinka hopes that, through the program, a stipend might be available to help with educational and or living expenses.

“There would not be an age limit, because we understand often life and practical needs - having a family, working in another field to pay expenses, etc. - can interrupt studies and set back a promising career, but the general goal will be to help those who have already shown exceptional talent and commitment, but their circumstances are holding them back,” said Kuinka.

The program would run for one year for each participant, with reapplication for extended support a possibility.

“It’s very clear that the IBPoC community is underrepresented in the opera industry, and it’s also clear that this situation is not because of lack of interest,” wrote Kuinka to the *Echo* after the meeting. “On the contrary, members of the IBPoC community who aspire to a professional career in the opera industry both at home in Canada and abroad often do not have the opportunity to develop their talent and interest because they do not have access to adequate resources, either educational or financial, to encourage their interest, guide their education, and develop their talent to the point where they can compete.”

The members of the HOREAC were thanked for their time and energy in sharing and leading the conversation. “We want to continue these conversations, those paths to healing - as Andrew so eloquently put - to transform our society through art in small steps,” said Kuinka. “This is one small step today.”

To learn more about the HOS or future events, visit <http://www.highlandsoperastudio.com>.

Thank you for maintaining our trails

community news

west guilford

Eleanor Cooper
754-2278

Snowmobiling! One activity I’d neglected to mention in my “remember when!” notes. Although the Snowshuffle had to be cancelled, the sport itself continues to grow.

The Haliburton County Snowmobile Association with its board of nine directors and approximately 330 members keep the trails serviced (all not-for-profit) with the five efficient groomers. Next year sees the 50th anniversary of HCSEA.

Trails can be found around West Guilford, Eagle Lake, the Rail Trail, Donald,

Harcourt, up to the Hawk Lakes into Whitney and Algonquin Park and cover a 371-kilometre drive. Active pursuers from somewhat south love the area for its variety of scenery in lakes and forest expanses, and appreciate the accommodations offered when needed. Many are new riders and caution is advised. COVID-19 rules apply always.

Congratulations to Chumbley-Sisson families on the expansion of the family as Jonas put in his large and lusty appearance on Feb. 19 at Soldiers Memorial Hospital, weighing in at 9 lbs. 2 oz. He is the second son of Jamie and Nicholas Chumbley and grandson of Bev and Fraser MacDonald and of David and Leslie Chumbley. Big brother Lucian wants his share of care-giving as permitted. Christopher Chumbley is pleased to have his name included in this new nephew’s name.

Presentation on blue–green algae blooms draws huge audience

SUE TIFFIN

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Cyanobacteria are one of the oldest organisms on the planet, evolving about three billion years ago, but there is still much for us to learn about cyanobacteria and their associated blue-green algae blooms, so on Feb. 9, more than 300 people signed up for a virtual Enviro Cafe hosted by Environment Haliburton to hear more about the ecology of what is commonly called blue-green algae.

Blue-Green Algae: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly was presented by Dr. Elizabeth Favot through a popular Zoom meeting held in the evening. Favot recently completed a PhD in biology using paleolimnology to examine long-term environmental conditions and potential drivers for cyanobacterial blooms in Ontario lakes. She's a new resident to this area, and is working as assistant lake stewardship co-ordinator with the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association, and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Dorset Environmental Science Centre helping to organize the Ontario Lake Partner Program, the largest citizen science water quality monitoring program of its kind in Canada.

First off, she explained, while blue-green algae is the more commonly used term, the more correct term is cyanobacteria, which is used in the scientific community. Blue-green algae are cyanobacteria, she said.

"The reason that the term blue-green algae is misleading is because cyanobacteria are actually fundamentally different from other true forms of algae like the diatoms or green algae, rather, cyanobacteria are photosynthetic bacteria."

With that said, she noted that cyanobacteria are one of the oldest organisms on the planet.

"The blue-green algae played a critical role in the evolution of nature as we know it, because they were responsible for the great oxidation event of our atmosphere," said Favot. "Because of this really long evolutionary history of three billion years, cyanobacteria are well-adapted to many different conditions and so you can find them in most illuminated environments on earth."

Currently, there are more than 2,700 described species of cyanobacteria, though in time there will likely be more discovered.

"Of all the thousands of species of cyanobacteria, there's only a handful or a couple dozen that form blooms in fresh water," she said.

Blue-green algal blooms have been confirmed as recently as last November in Dysart et al, in Minden Hills and in Highlands East, according to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks at that time.

"There's actually no strict scientific definition but it generally describes a visible accumulation of algae, so it's [when] one or a few species come to dominate the algae community in a waterbody," said Favot. "But blooms can be measured in different ways. So, for instance, blooms can be measured based on total cell counts per litre of water, or based on the proportion of the algal community that's made up of by a certain species or based on concentrations of photosynthetic pigments like chlorophyll."

While they're referred to as blue-green algal blooms, they are actually not necessarily blue-green in colour. In her slides, Favot showed a collection of photos – three that suited the blue-green descriptor were actually duckweed, green algae, and pollen, while three photos showing cyanobacteria ranged in colour from chocolate milk

brown, to spinach soup green.

"Even to the trained eye, sometimes blue-green algae blooms can be tricky to distinguish from other types of algae or other growths on the water, until a sample is put under the microscope and then it's very easy to tell," said Favot. "Generally if you see kind of a consistent, opaque, pea soup green, it could be cyanobacteria, and you can call a biologist and they'll figure it out for you."

As Favot noted, blue-green algal blooms have been on the rise worldwide, and have been detected in more and more waterbodies over the last few decades.

"In Ontario specifically, the number of confirmed cyanobacterial blooms each year ... has significantly increased over the last two decades, and the bloom occurrences are quite wide spread across the province," she said. "And although maybe you've heard that nutrient pollution from run-off is the most common culprit of cyanobacterial blooms globally, which is true, about one in four of these confirmed blue-green algal blooms in Ontario are actually from lakes with average total phosphorous concentrations in the oligotrophic, or very low range. And still more bloom reports are coming from lakes where nutrient levels have been stable or even declining in recent decades. So the lakes that my research is focused on are ones that deviate from the simple nutrient enrichment algal bloom paradigm, and [data] suggests that there may be other factors contributing to the rise of cyanobacteria across Ontario aside from simply

increased nutrient runoff."

A great concern of blue-green algal blooms are their potential to produce toxins. Freshwater cyanobacteria produces four main groups of toxins: microcystins, anatoxins, saxitoxins and cylindro spermopsins, and variants fall within those broad groups.

"By far the most common toxin associated with freshwater blooms are the microcystins, which are hepatotoxic, or toxic to the liver," said Favot. "In these broad categories here, not all species within them are capable of synthesizing toxins and, this one's important, even if we know there's a species that has the potential to produce toxins, it doesn't always [produce them] and when cyanobacteria produces toxins or not, it likely depends on specific environmental conditions that we don't understand yet, so for that reason a precautionary approach is taken where if there's a suspected blue-green algal bloom we take a sample, we put it under the microscope, find out which species it is, and if it's a species that we know has the ability to produce toxins, we assume that toxins could be present until the bloom dissipates."

Favot said the first microcystin toxin was isolated and characterized in the 1980s, yet "clearly cyanobacterial toxins are a widespread issue despite being a relatively new area of research." Health guidelines in place for microcystin are set at 1.5 micrograms per litre, total microcystin

see CYANOBACTERIAL page 18

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Cyanobacterial toxins can be serious, and even fatal

from page 17

tems acceptable in drinking water in Canada, said Favot, and 20 micrograms per litre for recreational waters.

She noted the consequences of freshwater cyanobacterial toxins can be serious, citing the death of 60 patients in the 1990s at a Brazilian dialysis clinic, where water used for treatment was later found to be contaminated with almost 20 micrograms per litre of microcystins, and the shut-down of tap water usage for two days in Toledo – with a population of nearly half a million people – in 2014 due to microsystem concentrations exceeding the drinking water quality standards. The message to not drink water from or swim in lakes affected by algal blooms and to heed public health advice was reiterated by Favot as well as others joining her in a forum after the presentation.

“But it’s not all just about the potential for toxin production, there are negative consequences of both toxin producing and non-toxic blooms,” she said. “Of course blooms that produce toxins are a health risk to humans and animals, but whether or not blooms are toxic, the biomass produced during blooms reduces water clarity or increases turbidity, and this can lead to biodiversity loss, through a reduction in the growth of other photosynthetic aquatic organisms.”

“The increased turbidity or reduced water clarity associated with blooms also reduces aesthetic and economic value of the water body,” she said. “Bottom water oxygen depletion, which is associated with the end of blooms when excess organic material is being decomposed, can reduce the suitable habitat available for certain aquatic organisms, and result in fish kills and can also exacerbate internal

nutrient loading from the sediments at the bottom of the lake, which can then result in a kind of positive feedback cycle that can further bolster future blooms.”

While research is still occurring to help determine the complex causes of algal blooms, three main categories can be used to “conceptually organize the interacting factors that can lead to blooms,” said Favot: weather conditions that lead to warm and stagnant water, elevated nutrients due to both natural and human-caused sources, and food web alterations, or changes in algae consumption by upper food web organisms.

“The dreaded climate change can alter conditions across all three of these categories, to make conditions more favourable for blooms to occur and so it can be kind of thought of as a threat multiplier in the case of conditions that promote cyanobacterial blooms,” she said.

Favot also explained the process of thermal stratification in lakes; discussed her PhD research involving paleolimnology, a branch of lake science that examines fossil material in lake sediment to determine the environmental history of an ecosystem; her work on lakes in Ontario, enabling her to compare pre-disturbance conditions with today’s conditions, and the consequences of climate warming in making conditions favourable for blue-green algal blooms.

“The best thing we can do is try to prevent blooms from occurring in the first place and one of the easiest ways to do that is to minimize nutrient pollution running off from human activities in the catchment,” she explained. “And a very easy way to do that is to intercept nutrients running off the land with terrestrial plants which can sequester these nutrients before they reach the lake. There

will always be ecological surprises especially since there are so many interacting factors that can lead to blooms but I do believe that with further research we will be able to pinpoint specific lakes that may be most sensitive to developing future algal blooms, and maybe a good start to that is to look towards lakes that have moderate nutrient levels or are classified as mesotrophic and lakes that are relatively shallow so that low oxygen conditions develop rapidly with thermal stratification. Lastly, I found that bottom water oxygen and nutrient concentrations indicating the occurrence of internal nutrient loading, might be more useful for determining the potential for blooms than surface water concentrations and so for groups that have the means we should try to incorporate oxygen profiles or a bottom water chemistry sample into our monitoring programs. So while it takes a lot of highly specialized work and time, understanding environmental histories is the key to putting current water quality issues into context and establishing baseline conditions is critical to inform management targets for parameters like nutrients.”

“Cyanobacteria are among the most ancient organisms on earth and when they’re in balance with the rest of the ecosystem they’re an essential and beneficial component,” said Favot. “However, blooms or excessive growth of certain species of cyanobacteria can have very negative ecosystem level impacts and unfortunately we expect that with continued climate change, blue-green algal blooms will become increasingly frequent and severe moving into the future.”

The presentation included a forum with Professor Barb Elliott from Fleming College and Dr. Norman Yan, research scientist, and a question-and-answer period from the audience.

To watch Favot’s presentation in full, visit environmenthaliburton.org.

For more information about the Lake Partner Program and how you might help by monitoring your lake, visit Environment Haliburton’s website at <https://foca.on.ca/lake-partner-program-overview/>.

Environment Haliburton’s next Enviro Cafe will be held virtually, via Zoom, on March 9 at 7:30 pm.

COVID-19 Contacts, Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by County								
County	Current Cases Not Resolved	Current High Risk Contacts	Current Probable Cases	Confirmed Cases (Total to date)	Confirmed Cases Resolved (Total to Date)	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Confirmed Deaths (Total to date)	Probable Deaths (Total to date)
Haliburton	0	1	0	51	51	2	0	0
Kawartha Lakes	11	40	0	536	483	27	42	13
Northumberland	21	58	1	444	412	15	11	0
Total***	32	103	1	1,031	946	44	53	13

Local COVID-19 cases resolved, variant cases rising in region

As of March 1, Haliburton County had no confirmed current cases of COVID-19, and one current high-risk contact, with all 51 local cases considered by the local health unit to be resolved. Fourteen COVID-19 variants have been reported in the health unit’s region - twelve of those in Northumberland County, and two of those in City of Kawartha Lakes. / Screenshot from the HKPRDHU website



Municipality of Dysart et al
135 Maple Avenue,
P.O. Box 389,
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Telephone: 705.457.1740 Fax: 705.457.1964
Email: info@dysartet.al.ca Website: www.dysartet.al.ca

**NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING
TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION
TO PURCHASE AN ORIGINAL ALLOWANCE FOR ROAD
MUNICIPALITY OF DYSART ET AL**

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Council Meeting of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al will be held by **ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION FORMAT ONLY** on:

March 23, 2021

Due to the COVID-19 Emergency, Council passed By-law 2020-35 that amends the Municipality of Dysart et al Procedural By-Law to permit electronic participation in meetings for Council, Local Boards and Committees. There will **not be an in-person** meeting; this meeting will be conducted in an **electronic format only**.

PLEASE NOTE that the electronic meeting will allow for public presentations in a webinar format. Any person wishing to present at the Council meeting must contact the Municipal Clerk at mbishop@dysartet.al.ca to register for a delegation time. Information regarding livestreaming of the Council Meeting will be available on the Municipality of Dysart et al website. Only those individuals who wish to make a presentation or speak at the meeting will need to register with the Municipal Clerk.

APPLICATIONS:
The Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al has, by resolution, declared the following parcels of land to be surplus.

Applicant: Harcourt Park Inc. (Tenants – Sexton)
Location: 1410 Betula Crescent – East Lake.
- Part of Road Allowance Between Concessions 7 and 8, in Lot 6, in the geographic Township of Harcourt, on a preliminary plan of survey, prepared by Greg Bishop Surveying and Consulting Ltd. dated February 2, 2020.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al proposes to consider and if deemed appropriate enact at its meeting as noted above, a by-law to close, stop-up and convey the portion of road allowance described above.

BEFORE PASSING the said by-law, the Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al shall at its meeting to be held as noted above, hear in person or by his counsel, solicitor or agent, any person who claims that his land will be affected by the said by-law.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION is available for review from the Planning Department at the Municipal Office during regular offices hours (8:30 am. to 4:30 pm. Monday to Friday).

DATED at the Township of Dysart, this 4th day of March, 2021.

Jeff Iles,
Director of Planning and Land Information



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT
TO
ZONING BY-LAW 2005-120 OF THE
MUNICIPALITY OF DYSART ET AL**

- **DATE:** TUESDAY, MARCH 23rd, 2021
- **TIME:** 9:05 am
- **LOCATION:** TAKE NOTICE THAT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT WILL TAKE PLACE AS AN ELECTRONIC PUBLIC MEETING ONLY

Application:

Lands of Rieger – Application No. D14-ZB-2021-002

- Purpose and Effect: The proposed amendment will rezone the lands from Open Space (OS) Zone to Waterfront Residential (WR3) Zone.
- Location: Con 2 PT Lots 13 & 14 & Clsd Rd Allow Plan 370 Blk C RP19R6886 Parts 1, 2 & 4, In the Geographic Township of Havelock, Municipality of Dysart et al.

Due to the Covid-19 Emergency, Council passed By-law 2020-35 that amends the Dysart Et Al’s Procedural By-Law to permit electronic participation in meetings for Council, Local Boards and Committees. **Therefore, there will not be an in-person meeting; this meeting will be conducted in an electronic format only.**

For more information about electronic meetings and public participation in an electronic meeting, contact the Municipal Clerk at mbishop@dysartet.al.ca.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: about this application, including a copy of the draft by-law, is available by contacting Kris Orsan, Senior at korsan@dysartet.al.ca.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MATTER INCLUDING INFORMATION ABOUT APPEAL RIGHTS: Contact the Planning and Land Information Department during regular office hours, Monday to Friday.

Dated at the Township of Dysart, this 2nd day of March, 2021.

Kris Orsan, CPT
Senior Planner, Planning and Land Information
Municipality of Dysart et al
135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0
Phone: 705-457-1740 ext. 626
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The hourly rate for this unionized CUPE position is \$17.65.

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed posting and job description.

Please forward your resume to abull@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than March 7, 2021.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

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Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed posting and job description.

Please forward your resume to abull@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than March 7, 2021.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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Bill, Sandi & Girls

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From Vol. 1, Report of the Special Senate Committee on Mass Media, 1970.

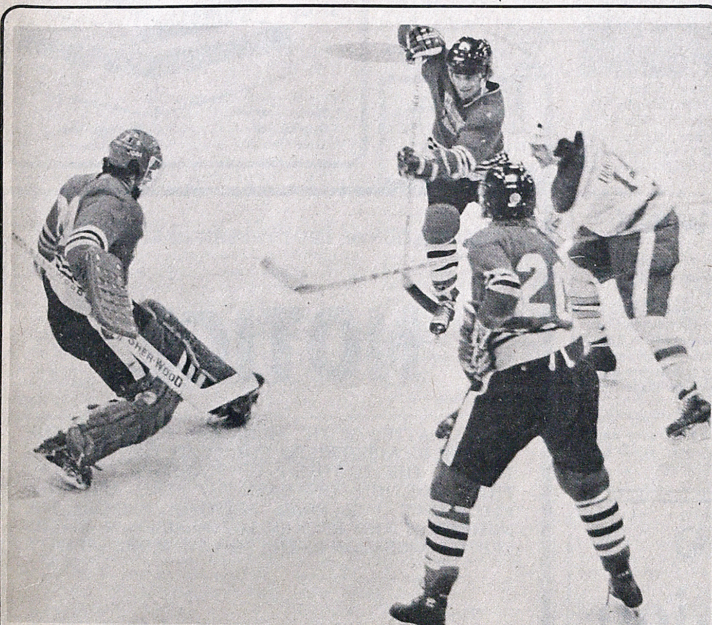
Haliburton County The Echo

The Haliburton County Echo was established in 1882 as the Minden Echo and Haliburton Recorder. It is an independent weekly newspaper serving Haliburton County as its voice for 94 years. The Echo is published every Wednesday by Algonquin Graphics Ltd. Box 360 Haliburton, Ontario.

Vol. 93 No. 27

Wednesday, March 2, 1977

20 cents



The Haliburton Huskies have taken a 2-1 lead in their best of seven semi-final series with Lakefield. The Huskies split the two weekend games played, winning Friday in Haliburton and losing Saturday in

Lakefield. The Huskies will take on Lakefield again tonight with game time slated for 8:30 p.m. For more details see County Echo Sports on page six.

School Board workers

45 cent pay increase

An increase of 45 cents an hour for the C.U.P.E. workers with the Haliburton County Board of Education has been agreed upon and was announced at the Feb. 22 meeting of the Board. Increases to Board administration salaried employees were also announced.

Richard Poole, chairman of the Board, noted that the increase to C.U.P.E. members brings the workers close to the municipal and county workers in terms of wage parity.

The increase is still subject to Anti Inflation Board approval.

Len Salvatori, trustee for Dysart et al and head of the Haliburton Board's Salary Negotiating Committee, noted that the C.U.P.E. bargainers had asked for an increase of 75 cents an hour, or 18 - 20 per cent, plus some increases in fringe benefits.

The increases in fringe benefits were negotiated, but were not granted, Mr. Salvatori said. He explained that while the Board's C.U.P.E. workers do not have parity with the municipalities, Board members on the Salary Negotiating Committee felt that good working conditions and job security made up for the lack of parity.

C.U.P.E. representatives accepted the settlement of 45 cents per hour, or about 9 per cent, effective Jan. 1, 1977. The A.I.B. guidelines laid down a 9.2 per cent increase. The basic rate will be \$4.65 per hour, and slightly higher for head caretakers, if the settlement receives A.I.B. approval.

Increases to the salaried personnel who work on Board administration, were also set out at the Feb. 22 Board meeting.

Effective in July of this year, director of education will receive a 7.6 per cent increase, and will earn a salary of \$44,200. The director's salary has not been increased since 1975, when a figure of \$41,000 was set.

The business administrator will receive an increase of approximately 7.6 per cent, and effective Sept. 1 of this year, will be paid a salary of \$28,500. The salary of the business administrator, the year beginning Sept. 1976, was \$26,540.

The supervisor of maintenance, attendance and transportation will receive a similar increase to \$16,200 per year from \$15,000 for the year beginning Sept. 1976.

Mr. Salvatori explained that

according to A.I.B. guidelines the salaries of the executive office staff could be totalled, the eight per cent of that total calculated, and that amount of money divided among the three in whatever proportion trustees decided. The final decision, however, was to divide that amount of increase into thirds.

Office workers for the Board will receive 8.2 per cent increases. Salaries of \$10,840 and \$10,211 were set for 1977.

All salary and hourly increases set by the Board at the last meeting are subject to A.I.B. adjustment. Mr. Salvatori noted that the A.I.B. has adjusted both up and down in the past.

School bus for students in subdivision

Students living in the new subdivision east of the Minden Community Centre will now be bussed to school, after having to walk 1.2 miles along North Water Street to get to Archie Stouffer School.

The Deacon's small bus which has a fairly short run, has been asked to report to the school a few minutes early so that students at the far end of North Water Street may be picked up as well.

The increase in cost to the Board will be about \$1 a day. The Deacon's bus can be hired for 30 cents a mile. Mr. Hodgson explained, and seemed to be the obvious choice for picking up the students.

This arrangement is to last only until there are no more Kindergarten, grade one or two students attending school from the subdivision.

15.3 per cent increase in school taxes in Minden

Anson, Hindon and Minden will bear a 15.3 per cent increase in school taxes this year, with a 4.8 per cent increase being charged to Dysart and an 11.2 per cent increase going to Stanhope.

These figures are the result of the final budgeting of the Haliburton County Board of Education, determined in two special budget meetings, Jan. 25 and Feb. 1. The final apportionment was announced at a meeting of the Board Feb. 22.

The average increase in taxation this year, for the 10 municipalities in Haliburton County, is 8.9 per cent.

The total school budget for 1977 is \$4,290,024.00, an increase of 10.86 per cent over last year's budget of \$3,869,747.00.

Provincial grants were also increased somewhat, keeping the levy charged to the municipalities to an 8.9 per cent increase.

Under the requisition laid out at the last Board meeting, Anson, Hindon and Minden will pay \$57,224. more in school taxes. Dysart et al will pay \$29,390. more and Stanhope will foot an increase of \$26,417.

These figures have been calculated according to the Ontario regulations for legislative grants, and reflect the increase over the 1976 apportionment as it was adjusted by the Ontario Municipal Board.

The 1975 requisition was contested by Anson, Hindon and Minden and Stanhope who appealed the amount of their apportionment under the regulations, asking that the apportionment be calculated on a different, and they felt, more reasonable assessment base. The O.M.B. supported the appeal, and ordered Haliburton's 10 municipalities to pay varying proportions of over and under levies to adjust the apportionment.

see page 3



Instructions



Christopher Greenfield gets some last minute instructions from his father Norm (top) before getting on the ice. In the bottom photo Christopher gets to try out some of the instructions with the careful guidance of his father.

\$2 per taxpayer

Recreation Director

At a cost of little over \$2 per year for each taxpayer in the municipality of Dysart, Haliburton could have a recreation director, and Haliburton needs one, says Don Popple, speaker at the Haliburton Rotary dinner last Thursday.

Mr. Popple, at present the office manager for Curry Motors Ltd., in Haliburton, has had several years of experience as a recreation director in Newmarket and has taught a recreation program at Sir Sanford Fleming College in Peterborough.

He spoke at Haliburton Rotary at the request of Scott LaRue about the need and possibilities for a recreation director who would service the Village of Haliburton. He suggested that one director could be jointly supported by Haliburton, Guilford, Harcourt and Wilberforce.

"People are demanding well rounded recreational programs these days," Mr. Popple said, "and in most places, are getting it. We do need a recreation director here," he feels, "not only for the sake of our

children." He mentioned the number of retired and elderly people who are in need of some direction, and said also "we have left our teenagers unchallenged."

"The purpose of a Recreation Director is four-fold" Mr. Popple explained. He would initiate new ideas and determine needs for community activities, where possible beginning programs to service those who have nothing arranged at present.

A prime function of the recreation director is to stimulate others he said. He must work with the clubs and organizations that are already in existence in a town and help them in new areas, Mr. Popple stressed that the purpose of the recreation director is not to take over activities or jobs that clubs are already managing. He is there to help, but not to do what others devote their time to.

The recreation director would be in a position to co-ordinate many of the activities in the community. Mr. Popple continued. He could act as a kind of clearing house for information. Mr. Popple gave an example

the recent weekend that a major hockey tournament and a bonspiel were scheduled for the same two days.

The administrative duties of a recreation director would probably be the most far-reaching and would be very beneficial. Mr. Popple noted that no business man would build facilities and then not make sure that they were being used to their full capacity. He feels that there is no reason for the municipality not to make sure that through co-ordination and programming, all the community facilities are being used to the utmost.

"Any facility with that much money tied up in it deserves the maximum usage it could have" Mr. Popple said. "The increased service made available to you and your families is going to offset the costs," he pointed out.

A figure of \$12,000 per year was given as an estimate of the salary that would have to be borne by the municipality for a recreation director.

Mr. Popple noted that the Provincial Government at present is pledging \$2,500. towards salaries of recreation directors at the outset, and that \$2,500 could also be expected from the government for office and operating costs, although that policy is under review.

"A person can recoup a good part of his salary because of the service he gives," Mr. Popple stressed. Part time or volunteer help did not accomplish as much, as a full time recreation director could for the good of the municipality.

He noted that the more municipalities that could become involved, the better, since that would reduce costs, and that one man could handle a population base of up to 10,000.

Dysart Reeve Murray Fearrey, a guest at the dinner, was asked to calculate the actual cost to each homeowner of the \$10,000 that would be incurred by the municipality. He said that it would make a difference in taxes of about \$2 per ratepayer including the seasonal residents who could also expect to benefit from the ideas and leadership of the director.

Mr. Popple urged any who think that a recreation program was a high priority for the municipality to make the belief known.



Don Popple, office manager of Curry Motors Ltd., and former recreation director for the Town of Newmarket, was the guest speaker at the Rotary Club monthly meeting. Mr. Popple told the club that it would only cost \$2 per taxpayer to have a recreation director in Dysart et al. Thanking Mr. Popple were Scott LaRue, who arranged to have the speaker at the meeting, and Art Ward, president of the Rotary Club.

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This cute and cozy 2-bdrm, 1 bath home. Located in the heart of Ingoldsby. Many recent improvements include, flooring throughout, windows, drilled well, new propane furnace and many more. Updated kitchen with white cabinetry and granite counter tops. The beautiful Haliburton room with stunning lake views. Great aluminum docking system and excellent swimming and fishing across the road.

DRAG RIVER \$399,000



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